Minute by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on the alleged rejection of a Geography class book. 1858

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Minute by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

On the alleged Rejection by the Government of Bengal of a GEOGRAPHY CLASS-BOOK *because it contained matter hostile to the Hindoo Religion.*

THE Speech of Lord Shaftesbury in Exeter Hall on the 5th January, received in Calcutta on the 14th instant, contained the following statement :—

"A letter had been placed in his (Lord Shaftesbury's) hands, which stated that a book on Geography, used in the Native Schools, was declared by the Hindoo Pundits to contain matter hostile to their religion, and that it was thereupon excluded by the Government from the Schools."

Shortly after this was received in Calcutta, the following passage appeared in a letter from a London correspondent to the *Friend of India* newspaper of the 18th instant :—

"Perhaps no one circumstance has done, and is doing so much damage to the Government of Bengal, as the course pursued in regard to a treatise on Geography published by the Deys at Serampore, which was offered for the patronage of Government, and referred for their opinion to some Pundits, who said that it contained assertions directly opposed to the Hindoo Creed, upon which Government refused to encourage it. Perhaps this was the act of a single public servant whom I have in my eye; perhaps Mr. Halliday was entirely ignorant of the transaction: but his Government bears the odium of it, and what Government can stand the odium of being represented as truckling, through mere timidity, to the idolatrous prejudices of the Hindoos to such a degree as to discourage a treatise on Geography, because it affirmed that the earth moved round the sun, instead of stating, according to the Pooranic system, that it rested on a tortoise."

As I had never heard of this matter till I read these extracts, I need not say I was greatly astonished at the news they conveyed; especially, as the act attributed to the Government of Bengal was (as every body who knows anything of our Educational system must be well aware) utterly contrary to its notorious conduct and policy.

I therefore called on Mr. Buckland, the Secretary in the Department concerned, to explain what had occurred.

Mr. Buckland's statement is appended, and will show at once that though there has been on his part some official negligence and mismanagement, which I doubt not he will avoid in future, there cannot really be found in the case any evidence whatever to convict the Government, or Mr. Buckland acting for the Government, or the head of the Education Department, of "truckling to the idolatrous prejudice of the Hindoos," of the folly and absurdity of which I am just as fully convinced, and of which I am just as unwilling to be accused as Lord Shaftesbury himself, or any of his audience.

The simple facts seem to be,—

First,—That the book was in use in the higher classes of some of the Government Vernacular Schools before this correspondence took place,

and is in use in them still, by order of one of the Government Inspectors, and with the knowledge and consent of the Director of Public Instruction.

Second,—That when further patronage was asked for the book on Geography, and also two other books, (meaning thereby the purchase by Government of a large number of copies for distribution in Vernacular Schools,) the request was refused, on the Report of the Director of Public Instruction, to the effect that the style was bad, and that the books were more suited for general readers than for School purposes.

At the same time the suggestion, that they should be used as Prize Books, was acquiesced in, or at all events, not rejected.

It is transparent, therefore, that there could not have been any objection to the book on Geography on the score of its alleged opposition to the Hindoo Religion, because, if there had been any such objection, it would not have been allowed as a Prize Book, neither would it have been authoritatively used (as it is to this day) in "the highest class of all Vernacular Schools."

The following is Mr. Inspector Pratt's order, dated 28th March 1857 :—

"The Inspector directs that, in the case of all Vernacular Schools established after this date, the Baraset Female School Geography shall be substituted for the other works on that subject, and that the 1st Part of *Pundit Kalidas Moitra's Geography, Day's Course* (*i. e.* the very book now in question) be introduced into the highest class of all Vernacular Schools established after this date."

The accusation against the Government falls therefore to the ground.

I may state as a fact, for the information of those who are not acquainted with our system of Education, that the notion of accepting or refusing a School-book on the score of the agreement or opposition of its facts to the Hindoo or Mahomedan religious prejudices, never could enter into the head of any English Officer under this Government, because we have been systematically teaching Science and Literature, and distributing books thereupon, for a great number of years, almost all more or less opposed to native belief and prejudices, and in some instances, as Anatomy, far more antagonistic and even horrifying to those prejudices than in the case of Geography.

I know not, of course, from whom Lord Shaftesbury obtained the information on which he has grounded his statement; but it is difficult to imagine that it could have been gained from any Indian, or *ci-devant* Indian source. Any resident in this part of India, who has paid even slight attention to the Government system of Education, who has looked into an annual Education Report, has visited one of our Schools or Colleges, or has even talked for half an hour with a lad brought up in one of our Institutions, must well know that, whether it be in the teaching of accurate History, or Astronomy, or any branch of Literature, or Physical Science, we have never stopped to ask whether the truths imparted were in accordance with native religious prejudices or not; but have in all our Schools carried accurate instruction on all those subjects to the highest point we could push it,

although scarcely any of these things can be taught without offending the most deeply rooted religious prejudices of the native mind.

In Literature we have habitually enforced or encouraged the study of such Authors as Shakspeare, Milton, Dryden, Addison, Pope, Johnson, Goldsmith, Southey, Macaulay, and others, not usually considered favorable to superstitious errors, or open to any suspicion of a timid deference to religious imposture or idolatory.

In Science we have not dreamt of withholding the true theory of Eclipses, because the orthodox Hindoo belief is that a dragon, on these occasions, is about to swallow up the threatened luminary.

Neither have we hesitated to inculcate the real succession of ancient and modern historical events, because the Hindoo sages have written that Satyavrata extended his life and reign over 1,728,000 years, through the whole of the Satya Yug, which commenced 3,892,911 years ago, and that his eighty successors, during the Treta and Dwapar Yugs, reigned, on an average, five-and-twenty thousand years a piece.

It is impossible then that any one, knowing these things, could pretend seriously to believe that we had any scruples about teaching the truths of Geography; that we inserted Mount Meru in our maps in deference to the Mahabharat, or omitted to describe Ceylon as one of Her Majesty's thriving Colonies because it is asserted in the Ramayana to be the magic island of Lunka, peopled only by demons.

Even in such a matter as Agriculture, it may be seen by any person who will look at page 308-9 of the Appendix A. to the last Annual Report on Education, that lessons have been given, and some degree of success achieved, in the face of an avowed religious objection from Hindoo bigotry. The Report was available in London before the 5th January last, and the anxious correspondent of the *Friend of India* might there have read, if he had chosen, the following officially penned phrases, not by any means confirmatory of his views as to the base timidity of this Government:—

"The high-caste Hindoos look with disdain on agricultural pursuits, and even consider them as forbidden by the Shastras. It is enough that in Baraset this silly prejudice has been overcome, and that the sons of Brahmins and Boidas fearlessly hold the plough and till the ground."

But, most of all, our conduct in regard to Anatomical Science might furnish to any tolerably informed person as to such subjects the most conclusive proof of the absurdity of the charge now so clamorously urged against us. At the Calcutta Medical College it has been an open and constant boast, that we have met and overthrown the prejudices of caste and religion in their very strongest hold. Let any one who doubts this read in the Code of Menu, or as abstracted in the 6th Chapter of the 2nd Book of Mill's History of India, the fearful consequences to a high caste Hindoo of coming only into accidental and unavoidable contact with a corpse, or a bone of a corpse, or even with another person who has accidentally touched such things, and then let him repair to the Medical College, and see Hindoos of the highest

castes sedulously engaged in dissections, handling bone, and entrails with entire indifference, and by frequent and sometimes, it must be confessed, alarming performances on the dead subject, learning to conduct successfully the most difficult and important operations on the living body.

And all this is done under the earnest encouragement of the Government, which has always evinced a particular pride in the success of this part of its Educational measures, and has fostered it to the utmost of its power.

Nor is this thing done in a corner. Not only are the successful pupils openly praised and rewarded, but, from time to time, the highest Officers of the Government (and not unfrequently the Governor General himself) make formal visits to the College, to observe the progress of the pupils, to distribute rewards and prizes, and to keep up the zeal and assiduity by which such extraordinary effects have been produced. And now forsooth, the Government which has done and is doing all this, which openly rewards Brahmins for proficiency in Osteology, and appoints the sons of Pundits to be Assistant Demonstrators of Anatomy,—which by its measures in this and other departments of Education has, notoriously and undeniably, changed the very face of Hindooism in Bengal, and released thousands of minds from the trammels of hereditary superstition,—this Government, I say, is now gravely accused, and I fear, at the instigation of those who ought to know better, of being afraid to teach Geography to little boys, because of the prejudices of the Hindoos; and, on the authority of so eminent a teacher as Lord Shaftesbury, numbers of very worthy gentlemen and ladies feel themselves constrained to believe the story, and become transported with indignation and astonishment at the turpitude of Indian official conduct, which has in reality no existence whatever but in the imagination of a few credulous and ignorant tale-bearers.

Upon the allusion to the Kishnagurh Christians contained in the same speech, I am under no necessity to make any remark, because I find on enquiry that, although the place named is within my jurisdiction, no transaction of the kind occurred with my knowledge, or, so far as I can learn, with the cognizance of any Officer under my Government.

Neither will I lengthen this paper by any observation on the statement, that "in Bengal the Word of God had been most carefully suppressed, so far as that object could be effected by the Government," upon which one of the speakers at the Meeting seems to have founded the singular proposition, that the First Minister of the Crown should declare to the people of India the future religious principles of the Government of that country. I cannot however refrain from declaring, in the most positive terms, that the accusation is as unjust as it is offensive; and that it has exactly as much foundation in fact as the allegation about the book on Geography and the base truckling of this Government regarding it to the religious prejudices of the Hindoo Pundits.

FRED. JAS. HALLIDAY.

22*nd February* 1858.

Note by the Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

1. The Lieutenant-Governor having called on me for an explanation regarding the Statements which appear in Lord Shaftesbury's Speech, and in the letter of the Home correspondent of the *Friend of India*, I beg to submit the following note:—

2. The original papers in the Office of the Government of Bengal show that the case on which these representations are founded, was disposed of by me without reference to the Lieutenant-Governor.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that in the enormous mass of correspondence which passes through the Bengal Office it is customary for the Secretaries to dispose of many cases of mere routine or slight importance, or in which the Secretary has reason to be sure of the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor and can therefore state it with confidence. The actual Rule passed on this point by Lord Hardinge authorizes the Secretaries to prepare all subjects and to conduct all correspondence necessary to the preparation of a subject until it is ripe for the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor. But in practice there are numerous questions of which a Secretary finally disposes without taking the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, and in the present year, owing to the great increase of correspondence in connection with the Rebellion, it has perhaps been necessary to do so more than usual.

4. In the particular case under notice I may inadvertently have gone somewhat beyond the line thus indicated, except that, as will appear hereafter, taking the case as I did to be an ordinary case of application for patronage to Vernacular School Books, I looked upon it rather as a matter for the head of the Education Department than for the Government to deal with, and therefore considered that I was quite safe in acting at once as I thought on the views of the Director of Public Instruction.

5. The following sketch shows the progress and facts of the correspondence:—

6. On the 29th January 1857 Baboo Srinath Dey, the proprietor of the *Tomohur* Press at Serampore, addressed the following letter to me as Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal:—

"Sir,—I have the honor to forward for His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal the 3 Copies of the Vernacular Works mentioned in the margin. They are intended for the Vernacular Schools. Should you kindly hand these over to His Honor with your recommendation, if they deserve that, your so doing will be an encouragement both to the Author and the Publisher."

1. The Steam Engine and the East India Railway
2. The Electric Telegraph.
3. The Vernacular Scholar's Best Companion to Geography.

7. This letter, together with the books, was referred on the 4th February to the Director of Public Instruction for report.

8. The Director very naturally and properly sent the books to Pundit Ishwur Chunder Bidyasaugor, the Principal of the Sanscrit College, for a report. The Pundit is the best Sanscrit and Bengali scholar at the Presidency, and is also thoroughly acquainted with English. He is not only Principal of the Sanscrit College but also a special Inspector in the Education Department, and is well known for his liberal and enlightened opinions, and as the author of various measures of reform by no means in accordance with strict Hindooism, among others the re-marriage of Hindoo widows. To this Officer, as an author of repute and the best scholar and best adviser in the Educational Service of Government on the style of Vernacular books, they were made over by the Director of Public Instruction for report. It is quite erroneous to suppose that he was consulted because he was a Pundit or as a person who by his birth was a Brahmin.

9. On the 2nd of November, Mr. H. Woodrow, M. A., who was Officiating Director of Public Instruction, submitted his report on the three books. He forwarded a letter from the Principal of the Sanscrit College, and wrote as follows :—

"The learned Pundit reports most unfavorably of the style of these volumes. He affirms it to be both clumsy and inaccurate. He is also of opinion that they have been written more for the use of general readers than for School purposes. In the latter opinion I coincide. In the former I with deference adopt the decision of so great a scholar as Pundit Ishwur Chunder Bidyasaugor. I may here state that the arrangement and the large amount of extraneous matter in the book on the Steam Engine are objectionable. One would scarcely expect to find in such a book on such a recent inventor a large number of pages on the Kings of India before the time of Vicramaditya. I think, on the whole, that these books should be given in Government Schools as prizes, but not introduced as school-books."

10. The substance of Pundit Ishwur Chunder's letter is given by Mr. Woodrow. It also contains the following paragraph, which the Director of Public Instruction did not notice :—

"As regards the last book, the Companion to Geography, I beg to observe that the remarks made in the preceding para. with reference to the style of the books on the Electric Telegraph and Railways equally apply to this work. There is, in addition, another serious objection to this book; in several places it reflects on the notions on the subjects as inculcated in the religious books of the Hindoos. I cannot therefore recommend its adoption as a class book."

11. The letter from the Director of Public Instruction was thus endorsed by me.—"Copy of this letter and its enclosure forwarded to the Proprietor of the Serampore *Tomohur* Press for information, with reference to his letter of the 29th January last, and the books received therewith returned;" and according to this order, copies of the two papers, the letter of the Director of Public Instruction and its enclosure from the Pundit, were forwarded under my signature. The form which was thus employed was unfortunate, because it seems to have caused the ambiguity from which the whole of the misunderstanding has arisen. No letter was written expressing the opinion or intention of Government regarding the books, but it was left

to the Proprietor of the Press to infer from the Director of Public Instruction's letter that the Government would, according to that Officer's recommendation, patronize the books as prizes, though it would not purchase a number of copies for class-books.

12. The Proprietor, however, did not understand the matter in this light. He appears to have taken it as an absolute rejection of his books, and therefore on the 15th December he again addressed me thus :—

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo, conveying the refusal of the Government to take any copies of my Geography in Bengali.

"I presume to request that the Government of Bengal will re-consider the matter upon this ground. It has already pledged itself to take it, both the Director of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Education in Southern Bengal having placed it among the class books. I enclose their letters and reports. The only argument offered against the book is by Pundit Ishwur Chunder Bidyasaugor; he says it is contrary to the Shasters. Is it desired that the School Geography should be in consonance with the Shasters?—should speak of six seas of milk, place Benares in the centre of the earth, and put the earth itself on a tortoise's back."

13.—This letter was also referred to the Director of Public Institution, and on 16th January that Officer wrote as follows :—

"Understanding that the point on which I am required to report is whether the Government is pledged by any act of this Department to take copies of the books that were recently reported on by Mr. Woodrow and Pundit Ishwur Chunder, I have no hesitation in saying that Government is in no way so pledged. One of the two papers enclosed in the letter of Baboo Sreenath Dey appears to be a copy of a course of instruction proposed by the School Improvement Committee for a certain class of schools, but not as yet at least formally sanctioned, and the other is a letter of Mr. Pratt's prescribing the use of one of the books under certain circumstances. Neither of these papers constitutes any such pledge as is asserted. In fact, inasmuch as either of them can be deemed an act of patronage of the books by this department, the object of the applicant would appear to be gained, and there is the less reason for the Government to interpose and purchase a number of copies of the works with a view to force their circulation."

14. The Director, as he has since stated, took no notice of the paragraph about the geographical errors of the Hindoo Shasters, because that part of the subject had been left unnoticed in the former communication from his Office, and he had no reason to suppose that it formed any ground for the course taken by Government with regard to the books.

15 On the receipt of this letter I wrote to Baboo Srinath Dey on the 26th January, saying that as the Educational Authorities were opposed to the introduction of the books in question into the Government Institutions, and as it appeared that the Government was not in any way pledged to take copies, the Licutenant Governor must decline to interfere any further in the matter.

16. I am obliged to admit that in this manner of dealing with the case there was much want of care. The simple truth is that to me, knowing so well the whole policy and conduct of the Government in such matters, and the unreasonableness of imagining it to be influenced by such imputations in

Educational measures, the attempt to introduce a religious objection appeared of no weight, and I therefore gave it little attention. I have already mentioned that this point was unnoticed by the Officiating Director of Public Instruction in his first report, and when the Proprietor of the Press addressed me a second time, seeing as I thought that the material point which he sought to raise was the existence of a pledge on the part of the Educational Officers to take his book, I at once passed the letter on in original, without sufficiently considering the spirit and object of the other portion of it. The Director of Public Instruction, in his reply, touched only on the point which I myself had supposed to be raised, and so it came to pass that my final letter to the Proprietor of the Press turned only on that point.

I sincerely regret that any inadvertence on my part should have been the means of producing such a serious misunderstanding as has arisen. But I may perhaps be permitted at the same time to observe that certainly no misunderstanding of the kind ought properly to have occurred, or as it seems to me, could really have occurred in the mind of any person before whom the entire correspondence was placed. It is perfectly clear that it was never intended to reject the book by reason of any objection based on any religious point, for it is, in fact, distinctly stated in the first report of the Officiating Director of Public Instruction, that the books, including of course the Geography, were objected to as school books, because they were written more for the use of general readers than for school purposes, and on this point alone that Officer expressed his entire acquiescence in the opinion of the Pundit.

17. Moreover, any body in this country acquainted with the Government system of Education must have known, and no one better than Baboo Srinath Dey, that books which teach true Geography according to the European system are the only books of Geography used in the Government schools, and the very book which is now in question had indeed at the time been ordered to be used by one of the Government Inspectors.

18. The allegation in the letter of the Home correspondent of the *Friend of India*, is that the book of Geography was referred to some Pundits for their opinion, and that on their saying that it contained assertions directly opposed to the Hindoo creed, Government refused to encourage it.

I have sought to show that the only Pundit consulted is one of the most able servants of Government in the Education Department, and was consulted not as a religionist, but as a scholar and an author. It was certainly my intention to adopt the Director of Public Instruction's recommendation of patronizing the books for prizes, though not as class books ; and further, it is shown by Mr. Pratt's Circular that the Geography was actually in use in the Government schools under his control. It is plain, therefore, that the religious objection had no influence whatever in the course taken with regard to the book in question.

C. T. BUCKLAND,
Junior Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Correspondence.

To

THE JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward for His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal the three copies of the Vernacular Works mentioned in the margin. They are intended for the Vernacular Schools. Should you kindly hand these over to His Honor with your recommendation, if they deserve that, your so doing will be an encouragement both to the Author and the Publisher.

The Steam Engine and the East India Railway.
The Electric Telegraph.
The Vernacular Scholar's Best Companion to Geography.

I have, &c.,

SHREENAUTH DEY,

Proprietor of the Serampore "Tomohur" Press.

SERAMPORE "TOMOHUR" OFFICE,
The 29th January 1857.

No. 211.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

To

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, LOWER PROVINCES.

Dated Lieut.-Governor's Camp, Rungpore,
The 11th February 1857.

GENERAL.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Proprietor of the Serampore Tomohur Press, and to request that you will have the goodness to report whether the Vernacular Works therein mentioned would, in your opinion, be of any use to the Education Department, and if so, for what number of copies of each Work the Government should subscribe.

I have, &c.,

C. T. BUCKLAND,

Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 1591.

FROM

THE OFFICIATING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

To

C. T. BUCKLAND, ESQUIRE,

Junior Secretary the Government of Bengal.

Dated Fort William, the 2nd November 1857.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter No. 211, dated 11th February last, requiring from this Department an opinion concerning the three Volumes of Day's Educational Course, I have the honor to forward the copy of a letter from the Principal of the Sanscrit College, No. 170, dated 29th October. The learned Pundit reports most unfavorably of the style of these Volumes. He affirms it to be both clumsy and inaccurate. He is also of opinion, that they have been written more for the use of general readers than for School purposes.

2. In this latter opinion I coincide ; in the former I with deference adopt the decision of so great a Scholar as Pundit Eshwar Chunder Bidyasagur.

3. I may here state that the arrangement, and the large amount of extraneous matter in the book on the Steam Engine, are objectionable. One would scarcely expect to find in a small book on such a recent invention a large number of pages on the Kings of India before the time of Vicramaditya.

4. I think, on the whole, that these books should be given in Government Schools as Prizes, but not introduced as School-books.

5. The books are returned herewith.

I have, &c.,

H. WOODROW, M. A,

Officiating Director of Public Instruction.

No. 170.

FROM

THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, SOUTH BENGAL,

To

H. WOODROW, ESQUIRE, M. A.,

Officiating Director of Public Instruction.

Dated Fort William, the 29th October 1857.

SIR,

WITH reference to your office letters bearing numbers and dates as per margin,* requesting me to report whether the books† therewith forwarded would be of use in the Educational Department, I have the honor to state as follows.

* No. 409, dated 12th March 1857.
„ 1491, dated 10th October 1857.

† The Steam Engine and East India Railway.
The Electric Telegraph.
The Vernacular Scholar's Best Companion to Geography.

The first two books are on subjects which are not properly comprised in a School Course, and no separate instruction need be given in them. The subjects will be learnt from the Work on Natural Philosophy, the first part of which, comprising matter and motion, has been published and adopted in the Vernacular Schools, and the remainder is in course of preparation. The books under notice might have been temporarily introduced into our Schools till the completion of the work on Natural Philosophy, but they have been written in such an inaccurate and clumsy style, that I am very sorry I cannot recommend their adoption as Class-books.

2. As regards the last book, "Companion to Geography," I beg to observe that the remarks made in the preceding paragraph with reference to the style of the books on Electric Telegraph and Railway equally apply to this work. There is in addition another serious objection to this book ; in several places it reflects on the notions on this subject as inculcated in the religious books of the Hindoos. I cannot, therefore, recommend its adoption as a Class-book.

I may add that all the books under notice appear to me to have been written more for the use of general readers than for School purposes.

The books in question are herewith returned, as requested.

I have &c.,

ESHWAR CHUNDER SURMA,

Special Inspector of Schools, South Bengal.

No. 666.

COPY of this letter, and of its enclosure, forwarded to the Proprietor of the Serampore Tomohur Press for information, with reference to his letter of the 29th January last, and the books received therewith returned.

By order,
C. T. BUCKLAND.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 9th November 1857.

"Tomohur" Press, Serampore, 15th December 1857.

To

THE JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,
CALCUTTA.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo, conveying the refusal of Government to take any copies of my Geography in Bengali.

I presume to request that the Government of Bengal will re-consider the matter upon this ground. It has already pledged itself to take it, both the Director General of Public Instruction and the Inspector of Education in Southern Bengal having placed it among the Class-books. I enclose their letters and reports.

The only argument offered against the book is by Pundit Ishwur Chunder Bidyasagur He says it is contrary to the Shasters. Is it desired that the School Geography should be in consonance with the Shasters; should speak of six seas of milk, place Benares in the centre of the earth, and put the earth itself on a tortoise back?

May I then humbly request that Government will re-consider its refusal, and not inflict on me the heavy loss I sustain through the official recognition of the book now rejected.

I have, &c.,
SHREENAUTH DEY,
The Proprietor of "Tomohur" Press.

No. 1585.

FORWARDED, with reference to his letter No. 1591, dated the 2nd ultimo, to the Officiating Director of Public Instruction for report, with the request that he will return the original papers with his reply.

By order,
C. T. BUCKLAND,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 18th December 1857.

CIRCULAR.
No. 391.

To

THE DEPUTY INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS FOR BURDWAN.

THE Inspector directs, that in the case of all Vernacular Schools established after this date, the "Baraset Female School Geography" shall be substituted for the other Works on

that subject previously prescribed, and that the 1st Part of Pundit Kalidass Moitra's Geography (Day's Course) be introduced into the highest Class of all Vernacular Schools established after this date.

H. PRATT,
Inspector of Schools, South Bengal.

KISHNAGHUR,
The 27th March 1858.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS

1ST YEAR.

English, as in the Course proposed for *English* Schools.

Bengali.—The *Sishushikyah, Parts* 3 *and* 4.

Dictation.

Penmanship.

Arithmetic.—As in English Schools, with the numeration scale and the notation of numbers, addition and subtraction.

Mental Arithmetic.—Suitable Exercises.

Science of Common Things.—As in English Schools.

Drawing.—Ditto.

N. B.—When no Text Book are specially named, those recommended for Vernacular Schools, or for English Schools, translated, if necessary, are to be used. Entrance standard as in English Schools.

2ND YEAR.

English.—As in English Schools.

Bengali.—The Nibishur, Part 1 and 2.

Dictation.

Translation from the Class English Reader and from the English sentences of the *Bakyaboly.*

Composition.—As in the 3rd year Course of English Schools.

Grammar, Keith's.—Declensions and Conjugations.

Penmanship.

Arithmetic.—The Multiplication Table, Multiplication, and Division. The 4 Compound Rules, with the rational, of each process. The Table of Coins, Weights and Measures (English and Native) in common use in the country.

Mental Arithmetic.—Suitable Exercises.

Topography.—As in the English Course for the 3rd year.

Common Things.—The Course of the 2nd and 3rd of English Schools.

Drawing.—As in the English Course.

3RD YEAR.

English.—As in English Schools, with translation from the Bengali sentences of the Bakyaboly. (*N. B.*—The English sentences should be afterwards learnt by rote.)

Grammar.—Allan and Cornwalls' Grammar for beginners (as in the 4th year Course of English Schools.)

Dictation.—From the Class Reader.

Bengali.—Reading and explanation : Ishurchunder's History of Bengal.

Grammar.—Shamachurn's Shoudhee and Declensions.

Dictation.

Translation from the English Reader and from the English sentences of the Bakyaboly.

Composition and Letter-writing.

Penmanship.

Arithmetic.—The Greatest Common Measure and Least Common Multiple, Fractions, Proportion, Practice, Simple Interest.

Mental Arithmetic.—Suitable Exercises.

Geography.—As in the 4th year of English Course, together with the Geography of Hindustan.

Common Things.—The 4th and 5th year Course of English Schools.

4TH YEAR.

English.—As in the 5th year Course of English Schools, except Morell's Grammar (the whole is to be substituted for Allan and Cornwall's large Grammar.)

Bengali.—Pattamritter and Nitibode.

Grammar.—Shamachurn's Conjugations and Syntax, with the rest of the 5th year Bengali Course of English Schools.

Geography.—The 5th year Course of English Schools.

History.—The 6th year Course of ditto ditto.

Arithmetic.—Decimals and the 6th year Course ditto ditto.

Mental Arithmetic.—Suitable Exercises.

Algebra.—The 5th year Course of English Schools Book to be prepared.

Geometry.—The 4th and 5th year Course of English Schools. Book—The Treatise in the *Encyclopædia Bengalensis.*

Book-keeping.—The Zemindaree and Mahajunee Accounts.

Land Measurement.—P. C. Tagore's, Bhoomee Pareeman and Guide to the Government Land Measurement.

Common Things.—The 6th year Course of English Schools.

5TH YEAR.

English.—The 6th year Course of English Schools, except in Grammar, Morell's Analysis, and Graham's Composition, in which the 7th year Course will be followed.

Bengali.—The Charoopat, Parts 1 and 2.

Grammer.—Shamachurn's, as in the 6th year of English Schools. The rest of the Bengali Course as in the same year.

Geography.—*The 6th year Course of English Schools, and Pundit Kalleedass Moitra's Geography 1st part.*

Physical Geography.—As in the 6th year Course of English *Schools.* Ditto ditto.

History.—As in the 7th year Course of English Schools, Ancient History.—*N. B.* Instruction of the same method, but in Bengali. The History being taken by the English master if necessary. Teacher may refer to the translation of Marshman's Brief Survey. A proper Text Book should, however, be prepared after Harm's Manual.

Arithmetic.—As in the 7th year in English Schools.

Mental Arithmetic.—Suitable Exercises.

Book-keeping.—As in the 7th year in English Schools.

Algebra.—The 6th and 7th year Course of English Schools.

Geometry.—The 6th year Course of ditto ditto.

Mensuration.—The 6 h year Course of ditto ditto.

Natural Philosophy.—As in the 7th year of English Schools.

Ditto.—Manu's work to be translated (until translated Yate's Podartha Bidya.)

6TH YEAR.

English.—As in the 7th year of English Schools, except Mullinan's Grammar, Morell's Analysis of Sentences, and Graham's Composition, in which the 8th year Course will be adopted.

Bengali.—The 8th year Course (E. C. Vidyasagur's Work and that by Pundit Kalleedasss. Moitara.)

Physical Geography—The Prakrito Bhoogole.

History.—As in the 8th year of English Schools, Mediæval and Modern History (to be taught orally.)

*Algebra.**—The 8th Course of English Schools, with the Chapters on Proportion from Peacock.

Geometry.—Book 3rd, with Deductions. Reverend Krishnamohun Bannerjee's Work.

Mensuration.—The 7th year Course of English Schools.

Book keeping.—The 8th year ditto ditto.

Zoology.—The Natural History of Vertebrate Animals, as in the year of English Schools.

Vegetable Physiology.—As in the 7th year's Course. Book to be prepared. (Translation of Chambers's).

Natural Philosophy.—Matter and Motion, the Paclentho Bidya, by E. C. Vidyasagur (until a more advanced Work has been prepared and the Bostu Bichar published by the Tutobadhini Sobha.)

No. 98.

FROM

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

TO

C. T. BUCKLAND, ESQUIRE,

Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Dated Fort William, the 16th January 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your docket No. 1585, dated the 18th ultimo, forwarding to me a letter from the Proprietor of the Tomohur Press, Serampore, for report.

2. Understanding that the point on which I am required to report is, whether the Government is pledged by any act of this Department to take copies of the books that were recently reported upon by Mr. Woodrow and Pundit Eshwar Chunder Surma, I have no hesitation in saying that Government is in no way so pledged. One of the two papers enclosed in the letter of Baboo Sreenauth Dey appears to be a copy of a course of instruction proposed by the School Improvement Committee for a certain class of Schools, but not as yet at least) formally sanctioned, and the other is a letter of Mr. Pratt's prescribing the use of one of the books under certain circumstances.

3. Neither of these papers constitutes any such pledge as is asserted. In fact, inasmuch as either of them can be deemed an act of patronage of the books by this Department, the object of the applicant would appear to be gained, and there is the less reason for the Government to interpose and purchase a number of copies of the Works with a view to force their circulation.

I have, &c.,

W. GORDON YOUNG,

Director of Public Instruction.

P. S.—The original papers which accompanied your letter under acknowledgment are returned herewith as requested.

W. G. Y.,

D. P. I.

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* Translated by Juddonauth Bhuttacharjee of the Serampore College.

No. 122.

FROM

THE JUNIOR SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

TO

BABOO SREENAUTH DEY,

Proprietor of the Tomohur Press, Serampore.

Dated Fort William, the 26th January 1858.

GENERAL.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 15th ultimo, submitting a renewed application for patronage to the Vernacular Works published by you, and in reply to state that the Lieutenant-Governor has re-considered your request; but as the Educational Authorities are opposed to the introduction of the books in question into the Government Institutions, and as it appears from a recent report from the Director of Public Instruction, that the Government is not in any way pledged to take copies, His Honor must decline to interfere any further in the matter.

I have, &c.,

C. T. BUCKLAND,

Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

John Gray, "Calcutta Gazette" Office.